



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Health Assessment and Toxicology Program

Environmental Surveillance and Toxicology Branch
November 13th, 2018



9954133

Who we are



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- The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Health Assessment and Toxicology (HAT) Program was created in 1988.
- Mandated by state law:
 - **Health and Safety Code, Chapter 503**, Health Risk Assessment of Toxic Substances and Harmful Physical Agents
 - **Health and Safety Code, Chapter 161.0211**, Epidemiologic or Toxicologic Investigations

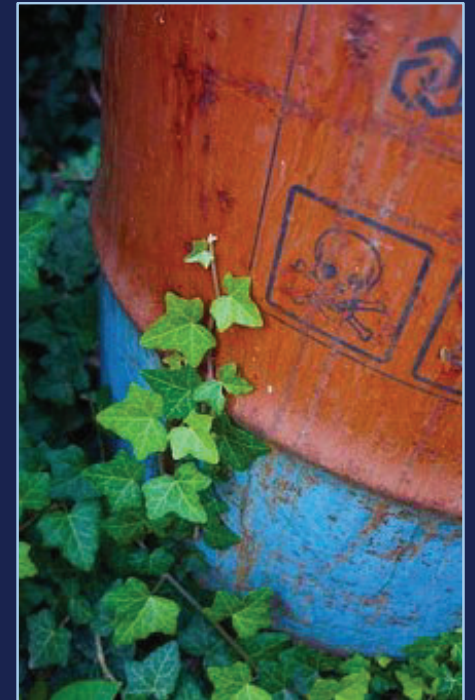
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- Primary state agency responsible for investigating and evaluating potential public health impacts of exposure to hazardous substances.





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Mission

To use the principles of risk assessment and toxicology to:

- Reduce and prevent adverse human health conditions from environmental exposures
- Identify human populations at risk
- Promote actions to protect and promote the health of the people of Texas



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The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

- ATSDR was created by Congress in 1980 to implement the health-related sections of federal laws that protect the public from hazardous wastes and environmental spills.
- The agency is responsible for conducting public health assessments for hazardous waste sites.

APPLETREE



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- ATSDR Partnership to Promote Localized Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposures (APPLETREE).
- 25 states funded to conduct site-specific activities

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/states/index.html



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HAT Program Activities

- Public Health Assessments and Consultations
- Technical assistance
- Exposure investigations
- Educational materials

Health Assessments and Consultations

- Evaluate environmental data collected by other agencies.
- Identify exposure pathways.
- Determine potential public health impacts.
- Recommend actions to protect human health.
- Produce written report.



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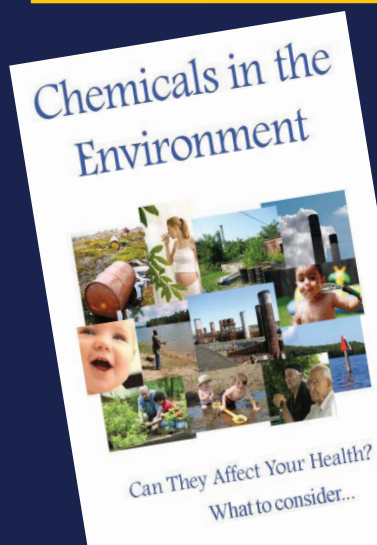
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Education and Outreach

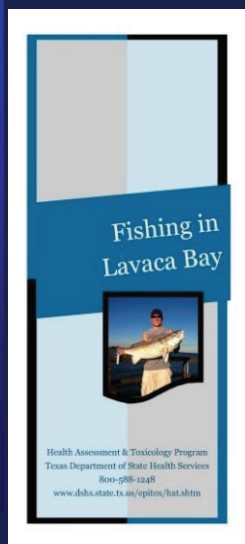
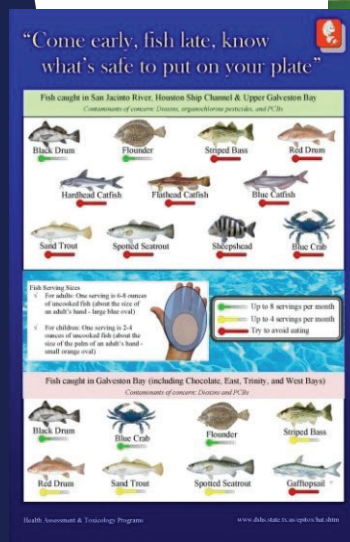


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Information about
health risks and
exposure prevention.



Collaboration

- Federal, State, and Local Government Agencies
- Non-profits
- Universities
- Community groups



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Contact Information



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dshs.texas.gov/epitox/hat.shtm

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Thank you
